

Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 AID-05 OES-06

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O R 281520Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4548

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

MEDDIV COE LIVORNO

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA, US

SUBJECT: JIDDA WATER CRISIS

1. U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS HAVE RECEIVED LETTER FROM
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER ABDUL RAHMAN AL ALSHEIKH
TO ALLEVIATE CURRENT JIDDA WATER CRISIS. TEXT OF LETTER
FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT. COL. GEORGE B. GRAY, JR., DISTRICT
ENGINEER, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, RIYADH, SAUDI
ARABIA. DEAR COL. GRAY: PURSUANT TO OUR MEETING WITH
YOU AND YOUR STAFF AND IN LIGHT OF THE BRIEFING PRESENTED,
WE WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE YOU THAT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND WATER CONSIDER THE JEDDAH WATER SHORTAGE THIS YEAR,
AN EMERGENCY.

TO AVOID ANOTHER CRISIS IN JEDDAH, WE WOULD LIKE
TO SEE THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROVIDE THE SAME QUALITY
OF PERFORMANCE AND WORK THAT WAS EXERTED DURING LAST
YEAR'S EMERGENCY. TIME IS VERY CRITICAL. ALL WORK
SHOULD BE EXPEDITED WITH THE SAME SENSE OF URGENCY
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PREVIOUSLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS.

THIS IS TO AUTHORIZE THE U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH ALL NECESSARY AND REQUIRED WORK TO BE ACCOMPLISHED TO THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM.

IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS EMERGENCY WORK, YOUR REQUEST FOR FUNDS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IMMEDIATELY. APPROPRIATE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY TO ENSURE THAT ALL NEEDED FUNDS REQUIRED BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS ARE AVAILABLE. SINCERELY, /S/ ABDUL RAHMAN A. ALSHEIKH, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER. END TEXT.

3. PRELIMINARY COE ESTIMATE HAS BEEN MADE ON MEETING WATER CRISIS NEEDS. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SAYS AMPLE FUNDS AVAILABLE IN MINISTRY BUDGET. MINISTER WISHED TO DEPOSIT FUNDS IN IRREVOCABLE LETTER OF CREDIT TO BANK IMMEDIATELY, BUT COE DISTRICT ENGINEERS INFORMED MINISTER THAT WASHINGTON MUST APPROVE PROJECT BEFORE FUNDS CAN BE DEPOSITED. COE LEGAL COUNSEL SYANT CONSIDERS THAT THE ORIGINAL MOU (APRIL 17, 1975) WITHOUT EXPIRY DATE CONSTITUTES SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE REHABILITATING AND UPGRADING JIDDA WATER SYSTEM.

4. (ROUGH ESTIMATE OF COSTS FOLLOWS.) CONTINUATION OF THE PERMANENT REPAIR TO THE JIDDA WATER SYSTEM WHICH WAS DAMAGED IN LAST'S FLOODS IS PRESENTLY PROGRAMMED AT 40 MILLION SAUDI RIYALS (C. \$11.5 MILLION). ADDITIONAL 25 MILLION SR. (C. \$7 MILLION) IS NEEDED TO MOBILIZE OTHER CONTRACTORS TO MEET PRESENT CRISIS FOR THIS SUMMER. THIS WILL INCLUDE DRILLING NEW WELLS, CONSTRUCTING NEW PIPELINE, WATER TRUCKS TO PROVIDE WATER TRUCK STANDS, AND A TEAM OF EXPERTS.

5. FOLLOW-ON LONG-RANGE PROJECTS TO DEVELOP BRACKISH WATER IN ORDER TO AVOID FUTURE CRISES WILL ENSUE THEREAFTER. PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE REQUEST BRACKISH WATER PROJECTS MAY RUN AS HIGH AS 150 MILLION SR (C. \$43 MILLION). DETAILS OF THESE AND REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL WILL BE SUBMITTED IN FUTURE.
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6. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED THAT SIMILAR LETTER FROM MIN OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO AMBASSADOR VIA THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

7. EMBASSY CONSIDERS REQUEST BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SHOULD BE APPROVED. IN ADDITION TO PROBLEM OF THIRST AND ELEMENTARY SANITATION, HEALTH PROBLEMS

ENSUING FROM CURRENT CRISES ALREADY BECOMING SERIOUS
DUE SEWAGE INFILTRATION INTO LOW PRESSURE AND/OR EMPTY
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM. FROM EMBASSY'S PRELIMINARY
JUDGMENT, SAUDI GOVERNMENT REGARDS RESOLUTION
OF JIDDA WATER CRISIS EXTREMELY URGENT MATTER.

8. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY REPLY.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA03072
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA, US, CORPS OF ENGINEERS, (GRAY, GEORGE B)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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